

Ministry of Labour & Employment

The Monthly Progress Report on **important issues / Developments** for the month of **March, 2022** are enumerated below:

(i) Labour Codes: As a part of legislative reforms, the existing 29 Acts in the central sphere have been subsumed in the four Codes. All Codes have been passed by Parliament and notified. The latest status of each of the Code is as under:

- The Code on Wages, 2019 was notified in Gazette of India on 8th August, 2019 and the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020 were notified in Gazette of India on 29th September, 2020.
- The Central Government has pre-published the draft Rules, namely, the Code on Wages (Central) Rules, 2020, the Industrial Relation (Central) Rules, 2020, the Code on Social Security (Central) Rules, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (Central) Rules, 2020.
- Video conferences were also taken by Secretary (L&E) with the Principal Secretary of Labour in States on 25th October 2020, 29th January 2021, 15th April 2021 and 17th June 2021, 1st October 2021, 09th November 2021, 21st December 2021, 21st January, 2022 and 25th February, 2022.

(ii) Status of Rules by State / UTs under four labour Codes: Following State / UT Governments have pre-published their Rules:-

Name of Codes	Name of States which have pre-published the draft Rules
The Code on Wages	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, NCT of Delhi and Puducherry (28)
The Industrial Relations Code	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, UTs of Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir and Puducherry (23)
The Code on Social Security	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh and Jammu & Kashmir (22)
The OSH Code	Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, UTs of Chandigarh and Jammu & Kashmir (18)

(iii) Governance Reforms: Shram Suvidha Portal: Under the Shram Suvidha Portal, **35,75,934** Labour Identification Number (LIN) have been generated and inspection report in respect of **6,68,449** cases have been uploaded on the portal.

(2) eShram Portal: eSHRAM portal has been developed for creating a National Database of Unorganized Workers, which is seeded with Aadhaar to extend the benefits of the social security schemes to them. Any worker, who is working in unorganised sector and aged between 16-59, is eligible to register on the eSHRAM portal. It is the first-ever national database of unorganised workers including migrant workers, construction workers, gig and platform workers, etc. As on **31.03.2022** a total of **27.05 crore** unorganised workers have registered on the portal.

(3) Consumer Price Index: All India Consumer Price Index Number for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) with base year 2016=100 for the month of February, 2022 decreased by 0.1 points and stood at 125.0 (One hundred Twenty five). The inflation based on CPI-IW stood at 5.04 per cent for February, 2022 as compared to 5.84 per cent for the previous month and 4.48 per cent during the corresponding month of the previous year.

(4) Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO):

a) ICONIC Week of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM):

1. On the International Women's Day, coinciding with the Iconic week of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, EPFO ran a series of women-friendly measures :
 - i. Settled 1,44,069 women claims for a total amount of about ₹ 638 crores in a week-long exercise.
 - ii. Started first of its kind "Women's Empowerment Desks" to cater to women stakeholders for one-stop service delivery at Chennai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai.
 - iii. The special week-long drive was also attempted to accelerate the e-nominations of women members resulting in 10,415 establishments reported 100% e-nominations of their female workforce. In total 7 lakh e-nominations were filed by women members, from just the top 100 establishments in the country.
 - iv. A function was jointly organized by EPFO, ESIC & DGMS on the theme "value and empower the women workforce" on 8th March 2022, graced by Union Minister for Labour & Employment & Chairman, CBT (EPF) in the presence of Hon'ble Minister of State for Labour & Employment & Vice Chairman, CBT (EPF), Secretary (L&E) and others. Hon'ble Union Minister for Labour felicitated 04 first time employed women mine-workers in India namely Ms. Aruna Narayan Sankatala and Ms. Bipasha Biswas of Opencast mines and Ms. Sandhya Rasakatla along with Ms. Yogeshwari Rane from underground mines.
2. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam and other Ministers in Govt of Assam joined for a public function organized on on 12th March 2022 on the occasion of AKAM Iconic week to launch various facilities for stakeholders to improve service delivery & felicitate officers and staff for exemplary performance:

- i. Launched PE portal 2.0. Through this upgraded portal the Contractors can now declare their Principal Employers (PEs) and particulars like contract tenure, contract/work order and UANs of the employees deployed.
- ii. Virtually launch of e-Office at Regional office Guwahati.
- iii. Inauguration of the 08th Zonal Call Center at Zonal Office Guwahati. With this launch, EPFO call center attends call in Seven (07) local vernacular languages viz Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada now Assamese in addition to Hindi and English.
- iv. 48 regional offices of EPFO have already received ISO 9001:2015 certification for meeting the requirements of customer satisfaction and applicable statutory requirements.
- v. Virtual inauguration of office buildings of Chikmagalur & Shimoga Regional offices. These buildings are as per green norms, IT infrastructure enabled, and as per the norms of the Access India scheme. He also laid the foundation stone for the construction of an office building in Naroda (Ahmedabad) in a virtual mode.
- vi. As a part of celebration of AKAM, EPFO has started a special drive to encourage members to file e-nomination. In March 2022, a record high 27.32 Lakh e-nominations were made. Total nominations till March, 2022 are 1.12 crore.

b) 230th meeting of Central Board of Trustees (CBT), EPF:

The 230th meeting of Central Board of Trustees (CBT), EPF was held on 11th & 12th March 2022 at Guwahati, Assam under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister for Labour & Employment & Chairman, CBT (EPF) in the presence of Hon'ble Minister of State for Labour & Employment & Vice Chairman, CBT (EPF) and Secretary (L&E) & Co-Vice Chairman, CBT (EPF). During the meeting, the Board took the following important decisions:

- i. Recommended the rate of interest @ 8.10% for the financial year, 2021-22 to be credited into members EPF accounts.
- ii. Deliberated and approved the recommendations of the four ad-hoc Committees of CBT, EPF which were formed to address important issues related to Human Resources/Establishments matters, Coverage & related Litigation, IT & Communications and Pension Reforms.
- iii. Approved Revised Estimates for 2020-21 and Budget Estimates for the year 2022-23 for the schemes administered by EPFO.

c) COVID-19 Advance Claims:

To ensure that members are not financially inconvenienced during COVID-19 pandemic, provisions for special COVID advance were made in the EPF Scheme. EPFO offices across the country have settled 91.69 lakh COVID-19 advance claims from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022, disbursing ₹19,126 crores to claimants. Exempted establishments have also played an important role in settlement of COVID-19 advance claims. Since 01.04.2021, 3,43,578 COVID-19 advance claims disbursing an amount of ₹ 3018.75 crores to their members till 31.03.2022 have been settled by exempted establishments. In fact, innovative measures like auto-settlement mode

and multi-location claim settlement have ensured that most of COVID-19 claims are settled within 3 days despite various constraints.

d) Pension disbursement during COVID-19 pandemic:

In March, 2022, EPFO released ₹1,148.69 crore as monthly pension to EPS pensioners. 48,974 new pensioners were also added in March, 2022. 1,171 Pension Adalats have been organized till 31.03.2022, wherein 4,957 grievances have been resolved.

e) Settlement of claims by EPFO office:

Since 01.04.2021, 3.91 crore claims (Final PF Settlements, Death Claims, Insurance Claims and Partial withdrawal/advance including LIP & Covid-19) have been settled by EPFO offices till 31.03.2022, disbursing an amount of ₹ 1,54,505 crores to PF members.

f) Prayaas:

Under the Prayaas initiative, field offices of EPFO are handing over PPOs to members of EPS 1995 on the day of superannuation. Since April 2021, field offices of EPFO conducted 3,596 webinars on Prayaas initiative and handed over 22,635 PPOs on the day of superannuation to subscribers till 31.03.2022.

g) Progress on EDLI Scheme:

The assurance benefit has been raised from earlier ₹6 Lakhs to ₹7 Lakhs from 28.04.2021. Since 15.02.2020, an amount of ₹ 3,035.90 crore has been disbursed to 1,07,399 beneficiaries across 44,992 establishments as assurance benefit till 31.03.2022.

h) KYC updation of subscribers:

Since 01.04.2021, EPFO offices have ensured Aadhaar seeding for 1.55 crore subscribers, mobile number seeding for 1.16 crore subscribers and bank account seeding for 75.87 lakh subscribers till 31.03.2022.

i) EPFO Payroll data:

Since April, 2018 EPFO has been releasing monthly payroll data covering the period from September, 2017 onward and subscribers data is validated through Aadhar and Universal Account Number. The provisional payroll data of EPFO released on 20th March 2022 highlights that EPFO has added 15.29 lakh net subscribers during the month of January 2022. Comparison shows an increase of around 2.69 lakh in net payroll additions in January 2022.

(5) Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC):

(i) Performance in key areas:

- a) **Revenue income-** Revenue income for the month March,2022 was 1543.60 crore.
- b) **Registration of New Employees-** 18.33 lakh employees were registered during March 2022.
- c) **Registration of New Establishment-** 25450 new establishments were registered during the month of March.

- d) **UAN seeding of IPs in Panchdeep Application-** 9275318 UAN seeding of IPs has been completed till 31st March, 2022.
- e) **Settlement of SST Bills-** A total of 8927 SST Bills were settled in UTI system amounting to ₹139.42 Crore during March, 2022.

(ii) **ICONIC Week of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM):**

- a) **Special drive for disposal of pending case benefits/maternity benefits:** More than 15000 Maternity Benefit/Temporary Disablement Benefit/Permanent Disablement Benefit/ Dependants' Benefit/Re-imbursements claim to insured workers amounting to around Rs.42 crores were settled by ESIC during the Iconic Week.
- b) **Health check-up Programme:**
- Health check-up programme at industrial clusters of 15 cities were organised across India, in which 18440 Insured Workers were screened and tests/medicines, if needed, were conducted/distributed during the health check-up camps.
 - A Pilot Project for Health Check-up of female Bidi and Brick Kiln workers was launched by Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister for Women and Child Development, Govt. of India and Sh. Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Labour & Employment, Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Govt. of India on 08.03.2022.
- c) **Release of booklet on 'Swasth Bharat, Samridh Bharat':** ESIC has released a booklet on 'Swasth Bharat, Samridh Bharat' on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on 7th March, 2022.

(iii) **Extension of ESIC Scheme:**

- a) **Coverage of eight categories of establishments under ESIC Act:** Central Government has issued a draft Notification dated 28.03.2022 for coverage of eight categories of establishments under Section 1(5) of the ESI Act, 1948.
- b) **Extension of Scheme to the district Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu:** Applicability of ESI Act in the entire area of district Nagapattinam in the State of Tamil Nadu was notified with effect from 1st April, 2022.

(iv) **Relaxation of Eligibility Conditions:**

- a) **Condition for Sickness Benefit for the Insured Women (IW) is relaxed:** Gazette notification was issued on 07/03/2022 with insertion of Proviso to Rule 55 enabling the IW to avail sickness benefit during the benefit period corresponding to the contribution period in which she was on confinement, with relaxed contribution conditions of half the number of working days in a contribution period.
- b) **Relaxed eligibility Condition for COVID-19 Relief Scheme:** Contributory Condition for eligibility under the COVID-19 Relief Scheme has been relaxed from 70 days to 35 days, for relief to the affected families of the IPs who died due to the Covid19 Pandemic.

(v) **Taking Over of ESIC Hospital, Tinsukia:**

Sh. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam has handed over the signed documents for taking over of ESI Hospital, Tinsukia by ESIC to Sh. Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Union Minister, Labour & Employment,

Environment, Forest & Climate Change on 12th March 2022 at Guwahati, Assam.

(6) Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY): To boost employment generation and to minimize socio-economic impact of Covid-19 pandemic, Ministry of Labour & Employment on 30.12.2020 notified EPFO-linked Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY), for which, an expenditure of ₹ 22,810 crore has been approved for the Scheme period i.e. 2020-2024. As on 31.03.2022, 3.16 lakh establishments have registered 75.05 lakh new employees under ABRY. Till 31.03.2022, 1,39,433 establishments have claimed benefits amounting to ₹ 4,397.43 crores in respect of 54.89 lakh beneficiaries.

(7) Iconic Week of AKAM celebrations by Ministry of Labour & Employment:

Ministry of Labour & Employment celebrated 'Iconic week of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' from 07th March 2022 to 13th March 2022 across the country marking 75 years of India's Independence. All the organisations, departments and attached offices of the Ministry along with their field offices took part in the celebrations. During the Iconic week a total of 893 events were held across the country and more than 1,62,474 persons attended the events.

(8) Shram Awards:

Hon'ble Union Minister of Labour & Employment , Environment, Forest & Climate Change, in the presence of Hon'ble Minister of State for Labour & Employment and Petroleum & Natural Gas and Secretary (L&E), presented Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP), National Safety Awards (NSA) and National Safety Awards (Mines). In case of VRP, for the performance year 2018, total 96 awards were given. In case of National Safety Award (Mines) for the contest years 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020 a total of 144 awards were given whereas in case of National Safety Awards, a total of 141 number of (80 winners & 61 runners-up) awards were given.

(9) Meetings:

- (i) G-20 First Employment Working Group Meeting (virtual) was held from 08.03.2022 to 10.03.2022 headed by Secretary (L&E).
- (ii) A meeting was held between Mr. Chang Jae-bok, Ambassador of republic of Korea and Shri Sunil Barthwal, Secretary (L&E).
- (iii) The 344th session of the Governing Body of ILO (virtual) was held from 14.03.2022 to 25.03.2022 headed by Secretary (L&E).

(10) National Career Service (NCS):

- a) Additional Secretary/Director General of Employment, Ministry of Labour and Employment launched an "e-Book touching upon the journey of NCS so far", on 07th March, 2022 on the occasion of celebration of AKAM.
- b) In the month of March 2022, 2,857 candidates were registered for the Microsoft Digisaksham program. Approx. 500 candidates were trained in

Virtual Instructor Led Training. Additionally, more than 600 candidates have been registered for the self-paced learning program in month of March, 2022. Similarly, TCS iONProgram has been ongoing through the NCS portal. More than 800 candidates have been trained through the TCS iON initiative in March, 2022.

- c) 182 Job fairs were organized in which a total of 145 employers participated and 1,474 candidates were provisionally selected for jobs in this month. The registration of 3,660 new employers, 2,58,443 new jobseekers, 10,614 UAN based jobseeker registration, 1,72,541 jobseekers have been shortlisted for jobs. 1,56,460 vacancies mobilized in month of March, 2022.
- d) NCS integration with state portal of Assam and Delhi is on final stage of testing and UAT.
- e) A contest has been made live on MyGov Platform on 30 March, 2022 for "Suggesting a Name for Re-branding of NCS Portal" <https://www.mygov.in/task/suggest-name-re-branding-ncs-portal/>.

2. Important matters held up on account of prolonged inter-ministerial consultations:

Nil.

3. Number of cases of 'sanction for prosecution' pending for more than 3 months:

Nil.

4. Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the Government:

Nil

There was no departure from the Transaction of Business Rules:

5. Status of ongoing Swachhta Abhiyan (progress under Special Campaign):

6. Status of Rationalization of Autonomous Bodies:

Nil

7. Information on specific steps taken for utilization of the Space Technology based tools and applications in Governance and Development:

Nil

8. Vacancy position of senior level appointments in the Ministry / Department including Autonomous Bodies / PSUs:

9. List of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with:

Nil

10. Details of FDI proposals cleared during the month and status of FDI proposals awaiting approval in the Ministry / Department:

Nil